

## TEMPERATE BASSES (family Percichthyidae)

### White bass

*Morone chrysops*



**Similar Species:** None in South Dakota

**Identification:** Stripes unbroken above lateral line, faint and often broken in irregular pattern below lateral line, single patch of teeth at base of tongue.

The white bass is found throughout the Mississippi River drainage and has been widely stocked elsewhere. In South Dakota, white bass are primarily found in the Missouri River, its tributaries, and some eastern lakes, primarily in large lakes connected to major river systems and in big rivers with moderate current. White bass prefer clear water but will tolerate murky conditions. They are primarily fish-eaters, but have been known to eat aquatic insect larvae and crustaceans. Spawning is usually in rivers, but also on the shoal areas of lakes. White bass spawn in the spring, when water temperatures reach about 60 F.

Any white bass that exceeds 3 pounds should be considered a quality fish in South Dakota.

